Participating interests in African oil gas blocks

†611. SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SULE: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

whether India has tweaked the oil diplomacy agenda and plans to offer African nations a development package to help their economies and in return, India wants participating interests in the continent's proven oil and gas blocks, besides a commitment for long term oil and gas supplies;

if so, whether Government will offer the package which includes setting up infrastructure projects in power, refining, steel and railways network; and

(c) if so, whether these issues would be discussed in the forthcoming Indo-African conference?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) to (c) Keeping in view the desire of both India and the African nations to intensify and widen cooperation in the hydrocarbon sector, First-ever India Africa Hydrocarbon Conference and Exhibition was held in New Delhi on 6-7th November, 2007. A road map of cooperation was drawn out, the contours of which envisage (i) Hydrocarbon Co-operation Agreements at the macro level to identify the broad areas of Co-operation in the field of Exploration and Production and Refining; (ii) stepping up crude oil imports, and exports of petro-products by India; (iii) technology transfer and cooperation in R&D; (iv) retail marketing of Fuels and Lubricants by Indian Companies in Africa; and (v) training of technical and managerial personnel of African nations in hydrocarbon industry management.

Assistance for construction of dams in Rajasthan

†612. SHRI LALIT KISHORE CHATURVEDI: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) has provided assistance to the Rajasthan Government for construction of dams for the purpose « of irrigation;

(b if so, the details thereof, projects-wise; and

(c) the estimated acreages of agricultural area likely to be benefited after completion of these dams?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) to (c) Yes Sir. National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) has provided assistance to the Government of Rajasthan for the purpose of irrigation (through major & medium irrigation projects and minor irrigation schemes) which also includes construction of dams. Total loan assistance sanctioned to Rajasthan by NABARD under Rural Infrastructural Development Fund (RIDF) since 1995-96 till January 31,2008 and likely benefits to be accrued on completion of these projects are as under:

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.